

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 FEA-01 OMB-01 EB-07 /079 W

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R 111510Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1763

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PRESS UPSET BY REPORTED U.S. TROOP
MOVEMENTS IN ITALY

1. BANNER HEADLINES IN DAILY AL- JIHAD THIS MORNING (DEC 11) READ:
"SUSPICIOUS AMERICAN MANEUVERS NEAR ITALIAN COAST".
FOLLOWING RS TEXT OF ACCOMPANYING STORY, WHICH IS
SIGNED BY PAPER'S POLITICAL EDITOR.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: AMERICA, WHICH POSES AS LEADER OF REACTION
TO ECONOMIC CRISES IN WORLD, AND WHICH HAS LINKED THESE
CRISES WITH RECOVERY BY SOME OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF
THEIR COMPLETE RIGHTS TO SELL THEIR OIL AT REASONABLE
PRICES, WITHOUT EXPLOITATION AND THEFT BY FOREIGN IMPERIALIST
OIL COMPANIES, CONTINUES THESE DAYS TO DISPLAY ITS AGGRESSIVE
INTENTIONS TOWARD OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES BY VARIOUS DIRECT
AND INDIRECT METHODS, EITHER BY OPEN THREATS BY ITS OFFICIALS
ORMYY MUSSCLE-FLEXING, AS HAPPENED LAST WEEK WHEN AMERICAN
AIRCRAFT CARRIER ENTERED THE ARAB GULF; AND AS HAPPENED IN
LAST FEW HOURS WHEN NEWS AGENCIES REPORTED MOVEMENTS OF
AMERICAN FORCES TRAINED FOR A DESERT WAR TO SOUTHERN ITALY,
NUMBERING 50,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED HERE
THAT ITALIAN COAST FACES LIBYAN COAST. THUS AIM OF THESE
PROVOCATIONS IS CLEAR. AMERICA IS FLEXING ITS MUSCLES AND
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HINTING AT USE OF POLICY OF FORCE IN CONFRONTATION WITH

SOME OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, THERE IS RECENT STATEMENT OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER, WHO AFFIRMED THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN DECREASE IN PRICE OF OIL WITHOUT DECIDING TO STOP EXPORT OF WHEAT TO OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. WE CAN SEE THE AMERICAN MINISTER IS GIVING THE GREEN LIGHT TO REGIME IN HIS COUNTRY TO USE FORCE TO IMPOSE A DECREASE IN THE OIL PRICE, ON PRETEXT THAT PEACEFUL ECONOMIC MEANS OF PRESSURE BY U.S. AGAINST THE OIL COUNTRIES HAVE NOT WORKED. THUS THE AMERICAN GAME HAS BEEN REVEALED TO WHOLE WORLD, AND VOICE OF RIGHT AND DUTY MAKES IT INCUMBENT ON ALL COUNTRIES OF WORLD TO CONDEMN ANY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS AND UNMASK THEM. COUNTRIES OF THIRD WORLD AND NON-ALIGNED JUSTICE AND PEACELOVING COUNTRIES ARE CALLED ON TO STAND BY SIDE OF OIL PROUDCING COUNTRIES IN DEFENSE OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES AND TO MAINTAIN THEIR FREEDOM. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: QADHAFI HAS PUBLICLY WARNED LIBYANS TO BE VIGILANT, AND NOT TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT LIBYA WILL NOT BE INVADED AGAIN, AS HAPPENED DURING THE ITALIAN COLONIZATION. IT SERVES HIS PURPOSES TO KEEP THE THREAT OF INVASION BEFORE THE LIBYAN POPULATION, WHICH HE SEES AS COMPLACENT AND SPOILED, BUT AT SAME TIME, HE AND MANY OTHER LIBYANS PROBABLY ARE CONVINCED THAT AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IS A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY. IF THERE IS ANYTHING AT ALL TO REPORT OF U.S. TROOP MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN ITALY, ITALIANS MAY ALSO BE IN FOR SOME LIBYAN FLAK.
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